

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 NIC-01 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAJ-01 TRSE-00 COME-00

EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 DRC-01 /134 W
----- 120712

P R 161147Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2789

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, GR

SUBJ: ARREST OF CENTER UNION LEADER GEORGE MAVROS AND
MICHAEL BALOPOULOS, FORMER UNDERSECRETARY FOR
COMMERCE

1. CHARGE' TELEPHONED WIFE OF CENTER UNION LEADER GEORGE
MAVROS MIDDAY MAR 16 TO CONFIRM EARLIER PRESS REPORTS
ALLEGING MAVROS ARREST AND POSSIBLE DEPORTATION TO YAROS.
MRS. MAVROS STATED THAT GREEK MILITARY POLICE (ESA) HAD
BROKEN INTO THEIR ATHENS APARTMENT AT ABOUT 0538 HOURS
LOCAL TIME SAME DAY AND HAD ARRESTED HER HUSBAND AFTER
FAILING TO FIND HIM AT THEIR COUNTRY HOUSE WHICH THEY
ALSO BRLKE INTO. ESA ACTION WAS DESCRIBED AS ROUGH
AND IMPOLITE. ALTHOUGH THEY DID NOT "MANHANDLE" HIM,
THEY DID NOT AFFORD HIM OPPORTUNITY TO BRING CLOTHING
OR PERSONAL AFFECTS WITH HIM. MRS. MAVROS SAID SHE
DID NOT KNWO WHERE HER HUSBAND WAS OR WHY HE HAD BEEN
ARRESTED. BOTH REUTERS AND BBC HAVE FILED STORIES
ON MAVROS ARREST AND LINK IT WITH HIS STATEMENT MAR 14O
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WELCOMING THE DECISION BY BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO CANCEL

SHIP VISIT AND CHARACTERIZING DECISION AS "FAR FROM CONSTITUTING INTERVENTION, RATHER A CARRYING OUT OF INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATION."

2. ACCORDING TO PRESS SOURCE, FOREIGN MINISTER TETENES ISSUED STATEMENT MAR 16 SAYING UK DECISION WAS UNQUESTIONABLY INTERVENTION IN GREEK INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND THAT GOG HAD PROTESTED TO HMG.

3. IN AN UNRELATED CASE, ENGLISH LANGUAGE ATHENS NEWS MAR 16, REPORTED ARREST OF MICHAEL BALOPOULOS, FORMER UNDERSECRETARY FOR COMMERCE IN PREVIOUS PAPADOPOULOS GOVERNMENT. THIS ARREST ALLEDGEDLY RELATES TO CHARGES OF CORRUPTION IN CONNECTION WITH MISHANDLING OF PUBLIC FUNDS.
BRANDIN

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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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